

## Pershing Inspired Foch to Begin Big Offensive, Which Brought Defeat to Germany

Washington, D. C., Dec. 7.—Gen. John J. Pershing's account of his stewardship as commander of the American Expeditionary Forces was given to the public today by Secretary Baker. It is in the form of a preliminary report to the Secretary, covering operations up to November 20, after the German collapse. It closes with these words from the leader of the great army in France, expressing his feeling for those who served under him:

"I pay the supreme tribute to our officers and soldiers of the line. When I think of their heroism, their patience under hardships, their unflinching spirit of offensive action, I am filled with emotion which I am unable to express. Their deeds are immortal and they have earned the eternal gratitude of our country."

The report begins with Pershing's departure for France to pave the way for the army that was to smash German resistance on the Meuse, and give vital aid to the Allies in forcing Germany to its knees 19 months later. Its striking feature is the section devoted to "combat operations", where it told the story of fighting by the man who directed it.

Pershing views the encounters before March 21 of this year in which American troops participate as a part of their training and dismisses them briefly. On that date, however, the great German offensive was launched and a crucial situation quickly developed in the Allied lines, which called for prompt use of the four American divisions that were at that time "equal to any demands of battle action."

### Crisis Is Reached

"The crisis which this offensive developed was such," Pershing says, "that our occupation of an American sector must be postponed. On March 28, I placed at the disposal of Marshal Foch, who had been agreed upon as Commander in Chief of the Allied armies, all of our forces, to be used as he might decide. At his request, the first division was transferred from the Toul sector to a position in reserve at Chaumont en Vexin. As German superiority in numbers required prompt action, an agreement was reached at the Abbeville conference of the Allied Premiers and commanders and myself on May 2 by which British shipping was to transport 10 American divisions to the British army area, where they were to be trained and equipped, and additional British shipping was to be provided for as many divisions as possible for use elsewhere."

"On April 26 the 1st Division had gone into the line in the Montdidier salient on the Picardy battle front. Tactics had been suddenly revolutionized to those of open warfare, and our men, confident of the results of their training, were eager for the test. On the morning of May 28 this division attacked the commanding German position in the front, taking with splendid dash the town of Cantigny and all other objectives, which were organized and held steadfastly against vicious counter attacks and gallant artillery fire. Although local, this brilliant action had an electrical effect, as it demonstrated our fighting qualities under extreme battle conditions, and also that the enemy's troops were not altogether invincible."

### German Thrust Follows

"The Allies," Pershing says, "faced

a crisis equally as grave as that of the Picardy offensive in March. Again every available man was placed at Foch's disposal, and the 3rd Division, which had just come from its preliminary training in the trenches, was hurried to the Marne. Its motorized machine-gun battalion preceded the other units and successfully held the bridgehead at the Marne, opposite Chateau-Thierry. The 2nd Division, in reserve near Montdidier, was sent by motor trucks and other available transport to check the progress of the enemy toward Paris. The division attacked and retook the town and railroad station at Boursches and stoutly held its ground against the enemy's best guard divisions.

"In the battle of Belleau Wood, which followed, our men proved their superiority and gained a strong tactical position, with far greater loss to the enemy than to ourselves. On July 1, before the Second was relieved, it captured the village of Vaux with most splendid precision.

"Meanwhile our Second Corps, under Maj. Gen. George W. Read, had been organized for the command of our divisions with the British, which were held back in training areas or assigned to second-line defenses. Five of the 10 divisions were withdrawn from the British area in June, three to relieve divisions in Lorraine and the Vosges and two to the Paris area to join the group of American divisions which stood between the city and any farther advance of the enemy in that direction."

"By that time the great tide of American troops movements to France was in full swing and the older divisions could be used freely. The 42d, in line east of Leims, faced the German assault of July 15 and held their ground unflinchingly; on the right flank four companies of the 28th Division faced 'advancing waves of German infantry,' and the 3rd Division held the Marne line opposite Chateau-Thierry against powerful artillery and infantry attack. A single regiment of the Third wrote one of the most brilliant pages in our military annals on this occasion, Pershing says. 'It prevented the crossing at certain points on its front, while on either flank, the Germans, who had gained a footing, pressed forward. Our men, firing in three directions, met the German attacks with counter attacks at critical points and succeeded in throwing two German divisions into complete confusion, capturing 600 prisoners.'

Thus was the stage set for the counter offensive which, beginning with the smashing of the enemy's Marne Salient, brought overwhelming victory to the Allies and the United States in the eventful months that have followed. The intimation is strong that Pershing's advice helped Marshal Foch to reach his decision to strike. Pershing continues:

"The great force of the German Chateau Thierry offensive established the deep Marne salient, but the enemy was taking chances, and the vulnerability of this pocket to attack might be turned to his disadvantage. Seizing this opportunity to support my conviction every division with any sort of training was made available for use in a counter offensive. The place of honor in the thrust toward Soissons on July 18 was given to our 1st and 2nd Divisions, in company with chosen French divisions."

### Charge Is Begun

"Without the usual brief warning of a preliminary bombardment, the massed French and American artillery, firing by the map, laid down its rolling barrage at dawn. The tactical handling of our troops under these trying conditions was excellent throughout the action. The enemy brought up large numbers of reserves and made a stubborn defense, both with machine guns and artillery, but through five days fighting the First Division continued to advance until it had gained the heights above Soissons and captured the village of Berzy-le-sec. The Second Division took Beau Repaire farm and Vierzy in a very rapid advance and reached a position in front of Tigny at the end of its second day. These two divisions captured 7,000 prisoners and over 100 pieces of artillery."

The report describes, in some detail, the work of completing the reduction of the salient, mentioning the operations of the 26th, 3d, 4th, 42d, 32d and 28th divisions. With the situation on the Marne front thus relieved, Pershing writes, he could turn to the organization of the First American Army and the reduction of St. Mihiel salient, long planned as the initial purely American enterprise. A troop concentration, aided by generous contributions of artillery and air units by the French, began, involving the movement, mostly at night, of 600,000 men. A sector reaching from Port sur Seille, east of the Moselle, westward through St. Mihiel to Verdun and later enlarged to carry it to the edge of the forest of Argonne, was taken over, the Second Colonial French, holding the tip of the salient opposite St. Mihiel and the French 17th Corps on the heights above Verdun being transferred to Gen. Pershing's command.

### Air Forces Big

The combined French, British and American air forces mobilized for the battle, the report says, was the largest aviation assembly ever engaged on the western front up to that time in a single operation.

Of the reduction of the St. Mihiel salient, Gen. Pershing says:

"After four hours' artillery preparation the seven American divisions in the front line advanced at 5 a. m. on September 12, assisted by a limited number of tanks manned partly by Americans and partly by the French. These divisions, accompanied by groups of wire cutters and others armed with Bangalore torpedoes, went through the successive bands of barbed wire that protected the enemy's front line and support trenches, in irresistible waves on schedule time, breaking down all defense of an enemy demoralized by the great volume of our artillery fire and our sudden approach out of the fog."

"Our First Corps advanced to Thiaucourt, while our French Corps curved back to the southwest through Mondard. The Second Colonial French Corps made the slight advance required of it on very difficult ground, and the Fifth Corps took its three ridges and repulsed a counter attack. A rapid march brought reserve regiments of a division of the Fifth Corps into Vigneulles in the early morning, where it linked up with patrols of our Fourth Corps, closing the salient and forming a new line west of Thiaucourt to Vigneulles and beyond Fresnes-en-Woevre."

### 7,000 Casualties

"At the cost of only 7,000 casualties, mostly light, who had taken 16,000 prisoners and 443 guns, a great quantity of material, released the inhabitants of many villages from enemy domination and established our lines in a position to threaten Metz."

"This signal success of the American First Army in its first offensive was of prime importance. The Allies found they had a formidable army to aid them, and the enemy learned finally that he had one to reckon with."

The report shows for the first time officially that with this brilliantly executed coup Pershing's men had cleared the way for the great effort of the Allies and American forces to win a conclusive victory. The American Army moved at once toward its crowning achievements, the battle of the Meuse.

The General tells a dramatic story of this mighty battle in three distinct phases, beginning on the night of September 27, when Americans quickly took the places of the French on the thinly held line of this long, quiet sector. The attack opened on September 26 and the Americans drove through entanglements, across No Man's Land to take all the enemy's first-line positions. Closing the chapter, Pershing says:

### Goal Was Won

"On November 6 a division of the First Corps reached a point on the Meuse opposite Sedan, 25 miles from our line of departure. The strategic goal which was our highest hope was gained. We had cut the enemy's main line of communications and nothing but surrender or an armistice could save his army from complete disaster."

"In all 40 enemy divisions had been used against us in the Meuse-Argonne battle. Between September 26 and November 6 we took 26,059 prisoners and 468 guns on this front. Our divisions engaged were the 1st, 2d, 3d, 4th, 5th, 26th, 28th, 29th, 32d, 33d, 35th, 37th, 42d, 77th, 78th, 79th, 80th, 82d, 89th, 90th and 91st. Many of our divisions remained in line for a length of time that required nerves of steel, while others were sent in again after only a few days of rest. The 1st, 5th, 26th, 27th, 80th, 89th and 90th were in the line twice. Although some of the divisions were fighting their first battle, they soon became equal to the best."

The Commander in Chief does not lose sight of the divisions operating with French and British Armies during this time. He tells of the work of the 2d Corps, comprising the 27th and 30th divisions, in the British assault on the Hindenburg line, where the St. Quentin Canal passes through a tunnel; of how the 2d and 26th divisions got their chance in October by being assigned to aid the French in the drive from Rheims and of the splendid fighting of the 37th and 91st divisions,

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### Men in France

Of the total strength of the Expeditionary Force, Pershing reports:

"There are in Europe altogether, including a regiment and some sanitary units with the Italian Army and the organizations at Murmansk, also including these en route from the States, approximately 2,053,347 men, less our losses. Of this total there are in France 1,338,169 combatant troops. Forty divisions have arrived, of which the infantry personnel of 10 have been used as replacements, leaving 30 divisions now in France organized into three armies of three corps each."

Of their equipment, he says:

"Our entry into the war found us with few of the auxiliaries necessary for its conduct in the modern sense. Among our most important deficiencies in material were artillery, aviation and tanks. In order to meet our requirements as rapidly as possible we accepted the offer of the French Government to provide us with the necessary artillery equipment of 75, one 55-millimeter howitzer and one 55 G. P. F. gun from their own factories for 30 divisions. The wisdom of this course is fully demonstrated by the fact that although we soon began the manufacture of these classes of guns at home, there were no guns of the calibers mentioned manufactured in America on our front at the date the armistice was signed. The only guns of these types produced at home thus far received in France are 109 75-millimeter guns."

"In aviation we were in the same situation, and here again the French Government came to our aid until our own aviation program should be under way. We obtained from the French the necessary planes for training our personnel, and they have provided us with a total of 2,676 pursuit, observation and bombing planes. The first airplanes received from home arrived in May and altogether we have received 1,379. The first American squadron, completely equipped by American production, including airplanes, crossed the German lines on August 7, 1918. As to tanks, we were also compelled to rely upon the French. Here, however, we were less fortunate, for the reason that the French production could barely meet the requirements of their own armies."

### French Are Liberal

"It should be fully realized that the French Government has always taken a most liberal attitude and has been most anxious to give us every possible assistance in meeting our deficiencies in these as well as in other respects. Our dependence upon France for artillery, aviation and tanks was, of course, due to the fact that our industries had not been exclusively devoted to military production. All credit is due our own manufacturers for their efforts to meet our requirements, as at the time the armistice was signed we were able to look forward to the early supply of practically all our necessities from our own factories."

### WAR TAX BILLS HEAVILY UPON CORPORATIONS

Washington, D. C., Dec. 6.—Direct taxes fell heavily on corporations and on persons having large incomes, and lightly on the great majority of persons earning less than \$3,000 a year, it was shown today by the annual report of Internal Revenue Commissioner Daniel G. Roper, for the year ending June 30. Although 2,319,000 persons with incomes of \$3,000 or less in 1917 filed returns, including many heads of families having incomes ranging from \$1,000 to \$2,000 which were reported but not taxable, they were assessed only \$222,355,000 in the aggregate, or less than \$10 each. On the other hand, 665,000 individuals with incomes of more than \$3,000 were assessed \$592,613,000.

Corporation excess profits taxes of \$2,045,713,000 came from 117,000 concerns, while 218,000 corporations were assessed income taxes of \$48,175,000.

### Sources of Big Revenue

Other assessments by classes were as follows: Insurance companies' income taxes, 2,100 returns, \$3,072,000; railroad companies' income taxes, 4,096 returns, \$29,878,000; individuals subject to excess profits tax, 31,000 returns, \$88,731,000; partnership excess profits tax, 37,500 returns, \$93,125,000; munition manufacturers, 2,248 returns, \$9,418,000. Actual collections figured differed slightly from the assessments.

Revised reports on collections show that \$3,394,619,000 was collected from internal revenue, including \$2,835,999,000 from income and excess profits taxes; \$317,553,000 from distilled spirits; \$126,285,000 from fermented liquors; a total of \$443,838,000 from all liquors, and \$156,188,000 from tobacco.

### New Era of Taxation

The year 1918 marked the beginning of a new era of taxation, said Roper, because the bulk came from income and profits taxes rather than from liquor, as in previous years. In 1914 under the first income tax law, only 16 per cent of total internal revenue collections were from incomes and excess profits taxes, whereas in 1918 76 per cent came from these sources.

The Commissioner explained how the bureau had sought advice of business interests in administering taxes last year to minimize the difficulties in reporting and assessing taxes, and said this policy would be continued.

During the year, 2,238 illicit liquor distilleries were seized, mainly in Southern States. North Carolina had one-third of the total.

### MRS. CATHERINE M. RICHARDSON

Mrs. Catherine Mary Richardson passed away at her home in Bonne Terre Tuesday morning, Dec. 3, after a brief illness of Spanish Influenza.

Mrs. Richardson was the daughter of Fred and Emily Weik, and was born near French Village, St. Francois county, July 16, 1880.

On April 25, 1900, she was married to Emmett Richardson. To this happy union were born the following children: Mabel, Clyde, Chester, Em-

mett, Gertrude, Anna and Ruth. An infant daughter, born several hours before the mother's death, was christened Mary Weik. Besides her husband and the children named, she leaves two sisters: Mrs. Linn Chandler and Miss Mary Weik, both of Bonne Terre; two brothers: Leo of Washington, and Fred of St. Louis, and a host of more distant relatives.

The summons came to her at 11:15 Tuesday morning, Dec. 3, 1918, and without a murmur or even a good-bye to her loved ones the heart ceased beating, and the spirit returned to God who gave it.

In the passing of Mrs. Richardson, we who knew her realize that there is gone from among us a rarely beautiful character; she was indeed one of God's true women—kind, patient and always ready with a word of appreciation. She loved her church, of which she was ever a loyal member, and will be missed there as well as by a wide circle of friends; but most of all by the husband, children and sisters, to whom she was so devoted. She was ever their true friend. To her they went with their troubles, and by her good counsel they were always made better; for no desire of theirs was ever considered unworthy of her best efforts.

Mrs. Richardson possessed a rare faculty for friendships. She not only held to the old friends, but because of her kind and sympathetic way she was forever adding the new. Her friends always found her the same thoughtful, helpful woman, very thorough and painstaking, and always ready to overlook faults in others.

To the bereaved family, let us say that such beauty of character does not die with the body but will live on in the thoughts of friends.

The funeral services were conducted in the Catholic churchyard by Rev. Father Moser, and interment made in the Catholic cemetery.

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